

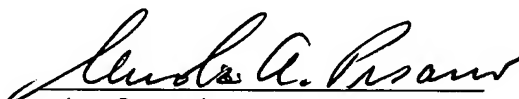
Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a divisional patent application of co-pending United States patent application Serial No. 09/648,257 filed August 25, 2000. Applicant cancels claims 1-17 and requests examination of claims 18-25, which were restricted out of the parent application.

Conclusion

An early and favorable response is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nicola A. Pisano", is written over a horizontal line.

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